

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace section on page 9, lines 18-24 as follows:

According to various embodiments of the present invention, the gripping means of the arcuate locking members may include, a granular material, a plurality of teeth defined by the arcuate locking member material, an abrasive grit or other abrasive material affixed to the arcuate locking members, a plurality of radial ridges defined by the arcuate locking member material, or another textured material that is selected to have a gripping ability with respect to the outer surface of the male piping member.

Please replace section on page 10, lines 20-24 as follows:

In other embodiments this ramp angle may also be set at other angles that adjusted to provide an improved distribution of the force imparted by the gland bearing surface so as to delay the radially-inward, teeth-engaging motion of the locking members until after the sealing portion has been adequately compressed to achieve a satisfactory seal.

Please replace section on page 12, lines 4-6 as follows:

In other embodiments, the arc length may be varied such that the restraining portion **430** is composed of more or less individual arcuate locking members **470** (such as, for example, an arc length of 15 degrees).